

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE OF SARASOTA COUNTY

“Partnering Assets Together for Human Services”

Sarasota School Board chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.

MEETING SUMMARY

October 18, 2004

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ken Alexander	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Karen Bogues	Community Youth Development
P.J. Brooks	Manasota Safe Children Coalition Advisory Council
Sandy Caplan	Vocational Interagency Council
Bob Carter	Senior Friendship Centers
Rose Chapman	Jewish Federation of Sarasota and Manatee Counties
Sandra Figueroa	Sarasota Coalition on Substance Abuse (for Lisa Phillips)
Kirstin Fulkerson	Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Dr. Kay Glasser	Community Planning
Stanley Godleski	Seniors Advisory Council
Eva Goodwin	STAR
Sarah Gorman	Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County
Nancy Hanshaw	Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court
Peter Howard	Florida Center for Child and Family Development
Janet Kahn	Sarasota School Readiness Coalition
Frank Kovach	School Board of Sarasota County
Kim Kutch	Department of Children and Families – SunCoast Region
Bill Little	Sarasota County Health Department
Dale Lux	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
Patricia McQuillen	United Way of South Sarasota County (for Marvin Huskey)
Marlene Minzey	First Step of Sarasota (for Dave Beesley)
William Newell	Salvation Army--Sarasota Corps (for Bert Tanner)
Millicent Puleo	Hispanic Latino Coalition
Sherri Reynolds	Juvenile Justice Council
Clovia Russel	Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity (for Tom Pfaff)
Nancy Shoemaker	Diocese of Venice
Stewart Stearns	Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Beverly Stockton	Suncoast Workforce Development Board

Jerry Thompson	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare (for Christine Cauffield)
Jessica Ventimiglia	Mental Health Community Centers
Alex Young	United Way of Sarasota County

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Luis Baron	<i>Sieté Dias</i>
Sheriff Bill Balkwill	Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Vanessa Carusone	City of North Port
Ginny Donovan	Department of Juvenile Justice
David English	Continuum of Care Leadership Council
Don Hadsell	Office of Housing and Community Development
Elliott Metcalfe	Public Defender - Twelfth Judicial Circuit
Jim Myers	City of Venice
Carl Penxa	Loveland Center
Steve Queior	Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
Colleen Reardon	Sarasota County Coalition for the Homeless
Brett Rees	Northern Trust Bank
Shannon Staub	Sarasota Board of County Commissioners

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bill Broughton	Sarasota County Intergovernmental Relations
Sally Graham	National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
Roy McBean	United Way 2-1-1 Manasota, Inc.
Erin McLeod	Senior Friendship Centers
Janice Mee	SCOPE
Susan Nunnally	Department of Children and Families - SunCoast Region
Bob Piper	First Step of Sarasota
Kathryn Shea	Florida Center for Child and Family Development
Alberto Suarez	United Way 2-1-1 Manasota, Inc.
Dorothy Zech	Sarasota County Intergovernmental Relations

STAFF PRESENT:

Becky Oliver	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
James Schulz	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Chip Taylor	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Pauline Tracy	Sarasota County Health and Human Services

The Community Alliance of Sarasota County met on October 18, 2004 at the Sarasota County School Board chambers at 1:30 p.m.

Stewart welcomed the members of the Steering Committee and guests and introductions were made.

Update on 2-1-1 System

Stewart Stearns introduced Roy McBean and Alberto Suarez, who provided an update on the United Way 2-1-1 of Manasota system that replaced “First Call for Help”. This system provides comprehensive information and referral services on a 24/7 basis. Roy stated that the 2-1-1 system was activated on May 16 and is now receiving approximately 210 calls a day. Roy noted that discussions to include DeSoto County in the system are currently taking place.

Alberto noted that contacting Manasota 2-1-1 from a cell phone is available only by dialing 308-HELP, but negotiations with the cellular companies to be able to dial the number directly are in progress.

Alberto distributed brochures about the system and provided the website address (www.uw211manasota.net). Program directors will be responsible for updating information for the data base by signing on to the website. Training for this will take place over the next month. There are currently 880 agencies and 2,100 programs included in the data base.

Alberto agreed to e-mail to all committee members a one-paragraph description that can be used in company brochures and newsletters to help publicize this service.

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Training Workshop

Beverly Stockton reported that County Commissioner David Mills had attended a workshop at the National Association of Counties annual conference on programs to market the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) available to low-income families. Commissioner Mills requested the Human Services Unit to coordinate this effort in Sarasota County. In Sarasota County, there are an estimated 5,000 families eligible for the credit and \$2.5 million in funds available.

Beverly announced that the first training classes for service providers are scheduled for October 28 at the Salvation Army in Sarasota and at the Nokomis Community Center. Brochures were distributed and Beverly asked committee members to share the information with anyone they know who might be eligible for the credit.

Medicaid Reform Symposium

Pauline Tracy reported that the Medicaid Reform Symposium has been rescheduled to Monday, November 22 from 1:30-5:00 p.m. at the Community Foundation of Sarasota. Pauline noted that Tom Arnold, Deputy Secretary of AHCA, has been invited and asked Steering Committee members to publicize the event to their staff and the public to increase the number of attendees.

Adoption of Community Alliance Legislative Priorities for FY 2005

Bill Little described the process for development of the Alliance's legislative package and asked Committee members to review the summarized items that were distributed. Bill explained that the Alliance's legislative priorities will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on October 26 when the Board adopts the County's 2005 legislative priorities. We are hopeful that the Board of County Commissioners will endorse the Alliance's five priorities and include some in their own list of priorities.

The Sarasota County legislative delegation will hold its public hearing on November 4. Stewart Stearns and Elliott Metcalfe will make a 5-minute presentation to the delegation on the Alliance's legislative proposals.

Chip Taylor described the Medicaid Reform Section 1115 Waiver and emphasized its importance, urging Committee members to attend the Medicaid Reform Symposium scheduled for November 22.

The Steering Committee voted unanimously to adopt the Legislative and Advocacy Committee's recommendation to include the Medicaid Reform Section 115 Waiver as a legislative priority of the Community Alliance.

Bill presented the other four issues recommended by the Legislative Advocacy Committee as 2005 legislative priorities:

- Mobile Crisis Response Unit funding
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Diagnostic and Treatment Center
- Continuation funding for the Mothers and Infants Program through recurring funds
- Foster Parent Automobile Insurance Pilot Project

The Steering Committee voted unanimously to adopt the Legislative and Advocacy Committee's recommendations as legislative priorities for FY 2005.

Bill Broughton reported that the Sarasota and Manatee County Commissions will meet jointly on October 25 and an agenda item will include the coordination and planning of public transportation.

COMMITTEE AND WORK GROUP UPDATES

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Stakeholders' Consortium

Bill Little reported that the Stakeholders' Consortium met in conjunction with members of the Criminal Justice Commission. Bill reported that Judge Bob Bennett spoke to the group about the necessity for the two groups to work together to address issues such as the number of persons in the county jail who

are in need of mental health and/or substance abuse treatment services. A subcommittee of the two groups was formed and will meet on October 27.

Bill also reported that coordination of services by key groups during the recent hurricanes was lacking and a work group was formed to address hurricane recovery efforts.

The Consortium also discussed several options the committee has for developing a community mental health plan. The Planning Committee met several times to discuss a community plan and to review the DCF Regional plan. The DCF plan provides a good start and a format or template that can be used as a foundation. It was decided to proceed to plan development rather than looking at the process.

Bill noted that the Consortium approved the following mission statement:

Develop and implement a strategic plan for the community which will improve and enhance the delivery of substance abuse and mental health services for citizens of Sarasota County.

The following vision statement was also approved:

Sarasota County is a community where:

- *State-of-the-art mental health and substance abuse services are provided to consumers in an integrated system that helps assure efficient use of resources and optimal outcomes for those consumers.*
- *Funders, providers and consumers work collaboratively to address the needs of the community.*

Health Care for Uninsured Children Subcommittee

Sarah Gorman recognized those who have participated in the subcommittee and assisted in the preparation of their year-end report that was distributed. The subcommittee has been researching the information for the past year. Based on the information gathered, it is estimated that there are at least 7,000 children in Sarasota County without any health insurance coverage. This represents about 13% of the approximately 54,000 children under the age of 19 who reside in Sarasota County and includes residents, both citizens and non-citizens.

Recommendations include:

- *A Caring for Kids training workshop should be conducted for staff of local service providers on how to educate parents about access to existing health care options.*

- *Explore innovative solutions* for providing health care services to children with no health insurance.
- *Expand the work group* to include public and private pediatric health care providers and insurance industry representatives.

The work group has identified several funding sources. If the above recommendations are implemented, the subcommittee believes the Community Alliance would be in a better position to apply for seed money for an innovative project within the next year.

Stewart Stearns acknowledged the members of the subcommittee for their work on a difficult task.

Education and Advocacy Work Group

Bob Carter reported that the Work Group will begin meeting on an as-needed basis. Their recent meetings were about the 2-1-1 System and the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Bob stated that the Work Group will work closely with the Nonprofit Resource Center to identify the types of educational opportunities needed in the community. Christie Lewis will make a presentation at the November 15 Community Alliance meeting.

New Business

Stewart Stearns read a letter from the publisher of the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* and SNN 6. The letter was a thank-you to the Alliance for its letter dated August 23 which acknowledged the media's excellent coverage of Hurricane Charley.

Marlene Minzey reported that First Step of Sarasota had received a three-year SAMHSA federal grant to expand the Mothers and Infants program.

NEXT MEETING:

November 15, 2004, 1:30 p.m. at Sarasota School Board chambers, 1980 Landings Blvd.